MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether any ascu treatment plant has been kept out of use ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Yes, Sir : 1.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know what was the necessity for this, when the Conservator has stated that he is very much satisfied with the efficacy of the treatment and that there is a large demand for treated timber ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Sir, I did not say that all the timber is required for the departments of the State. There is very little demand from the departments for materials treated with ascu. Therefore one plant is not used.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know, Sir whether there is no demand for ascu treated timber because the people are not satisfied with the efficacy of the treatment ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : No, Sir.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : ഫസ്റ്റ്, 0 ഫ്രം രൂപയ്ക്കുതടിവിറ്റതായിട്ടു പറയുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിക്കു കൊടുത്തതും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കൊടുത്തതും ഒഴിച്ച് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് എത്ര രൂപയ്ക്കു തടികൊടുത്തു എന്നു പറയാമോ ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : അതു് ഇപ്പോൾ പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. എങ്കിലും അധികം കാണുകയില്ല.

The Mint.

218. * MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are considering the question of abolishing the Mint ; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : (*a*) No. The Mint opened temporarily is proposed to be closed only temporarily at the end of Dhanu 1117.

(*b*) The minting of the entire stock of blanks for the new copper coins is expected to be completed by that time.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether some 2 years back Government bought some machinery for the manufacture of blanks or dies ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : The question is regarding the abolition of the Mint and not regarding the purchase of plant machinery.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Sir; my point is this, I have asked about the abolition of the Mint. Two years ago I think it was during the time of Rao Bahadur Rengaswami Aiyar that the department got down some machinery for the manufacture of blanks and dies, at a cost of Rs. 40,000. I understand that even the package containing the machinery has not been opened.

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : Sir, a separate building is required for fitting up the new machinery.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know why without considering the question of making adequate provision for fixing up this machinery it was ordered ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : When the order was placed two years ago it was thought that the existing building might be suitable, but when the machinery actually arrived, it was found that that building was not quite suitable and that another building was required.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : What is the approximate cost of the new building that is required for fixing up the new machinery ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : It has not been estimated.

MR PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from Government why they have not taken steps for at least to estimate the cost of a new building that is required for fixing up this machinery which was got down two years ago ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : If at present we are to go in for a new building it will be very costly. As it is, we are getting on without it. The minting of the blanks already got down is almost completed and we are not now going in for any more blanks. Therefore there is no immediate need for working this machinery.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : So, am I to take it that it is not on account of want of building that the machinery was not fixed up but on account of the want of necessity for it ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : On account of both.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether the Government are prepared to consider the question of selling this machinery to some who will buy it at a price which will bring a profit to the Government.

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : Sir, the suggestion requires mature consideration. We have first to ascertain what the machine will fetch in the market before we can decide whether it will sell at a profit or not.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : May I know why it was got down if it was not thought necessary ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : It was thought necessary at the time it was got down.

Development Department and Plywood.

219. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Development Department has begun the manufacture of plywood ;

(*b*) the amount of plywood manufactured so far ;

(*c*) expenditure incurred for such manufacture ; and

(*d*) the quantity of plywood sold and the total amount realised therefrom?

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